



AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A biodegradable fibrous support for soil mulching ~~comprising of the soil, the support being provided with a reinforcing means in the form of a grid associated with at least a part of the support, wherein the grid includes threads comprised characterized in that the grid is produced~~ of a biodegradable polymer selected chosen from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~ polylactic acid, polycaprolactone, viscose, modified viscose, polyhydroxybutyrate, and polyhydroxycanoate, and mixtures thereof. ~~by themselves or as a mixture, the grid being either maintained on the whole or part of at least one support face, or incorporated into the whole or part of the mass of the support.~~

22. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 21, wherein ~~characterized in that the grid~~ consists ~~is made exclusively~~ of modified viscose threads.

23. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 21, wherein ~~characterized in that the weight of the grid is between 10 and 50 g/m², advantageously in the order of 20 g/m².~~

24. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 21, wherein ~~characterized in that the grid is positioned exclusively in an~~ the area of ~~the~~ fixing points of the support on the ground.

25. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 21, wherein ~~characterized in that the grid is glued directly on the~~ a surface of the fibrous support by means of a water-resistant biodegradable glue which is selected chosen from the group

~~comprising~~ consisting of ethylene polyvinyl alcohol (EVOH), ~~and~~ polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), ~~by themselves or as a mixture and mixtures thereof~~, the glue being present in an amount representing between 5 and 50%, advantageously 15 %, by weight of the grid.

26. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 21, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the grid is positioned unrolled directly on the fibrous support ~~during its manufacture.~~

27. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 21, which further comprises ~~characterized in that it contains~~ thermobonding fibres which are present in an amount representing from 5 to 50%, advantageously between 10 and 15%, by weight of the support.

28. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 27, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the thermobonding fibres ~~are composed of~~ comprise PLA-fibres.

29. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 21, which further comprises ~~characterized in that it contains~~ a hydrophobic resin ~~representing from 0,5 in~~ an amount from 0.5 to 15% by weight of the support, wherein the hydrophobic resin is at least one selected ~~chosen~~ from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~ urea-formaldehyde resins, melamine-formaldehyde resins, polyamide-amine-epichlorhydrin resins, polyethyleneimine resins, starch derivatives, ~~by themselves or as a mixture and mixtures thereof.~~

30. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 21, which further comprises ~~characterized in that it contains~~ carbon black ~~representing from 0,5 in an~~ amount from 0.5 to 4% by weight of the support.

31. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 21, which further comprises a coating which is a dried residue of ~~characterized in that it is coated with an~~

aqueous solution comprising from 5 to 50% by weight of biodegradable natural latex obtained from the rubber tree.

32. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 21, which further comprises a coating which is a dried residue of ~~characterized in that it is coated with an~~ aqueous solution comprising from 5 to 50% by weight of biodegradable prevulcanized natural latex obtained from the rubber tree.

33. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 32, ~~characterized in that the stabilizing agents~~ further comprising a stabilizing agent which is selected from the group consisting of ~~are chosen from the group comprising the~~ vegetable proteins, ~~(casein, soya protein), the mineral fillers (talc, calcium carbonate), by themselves or as a mixture~~ and mixtures thereof.

34. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 32, ~~characterized in that the preservative agents~~ further comprising a preservative agent which is selected from the group consisting of ~~are chosen from the group comprising the~~ animal proteins, ~~(glycerin), the tannins, the natural colouring agents, indigo, the chitosan, by themselves or as a mixture~~ and mixtures thereof.

35. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 32, wherein the coating is present ~~characterized in that the solution is coated~~ in an amount of 10 to 200 g/m², ~~advantageously between 90 and 100 g/m².~~

36. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 32, wherein the ~~characterized in that the natural latex (therefore biodegradable) used~~ is obtained from *Hevea Brasiliensis* and has a dry rubber concentration at least of 60%.

37. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 21, which comprises ~~characterized in that the fibre composition of the support is as follows:~~ from 40 to 100%

by weight of coniferous unbleached or bleached kraft fibres, and from 0 to 60% by weight of deciduous unbleached or bleached kraft fibres.

38. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 21, which comprises ~~characterized in that the fibre composition of the support is as follows:~~ from 80 to 100% by weight of annual plant fibres, and from 0 to 20% by weight of coniferous unbleached or bleached kraft fibres.

39. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 21, which comprises ~~characterized in that the fibre composition of the support is as follows:~~ from 20 to 100% by weight of coniferous bleached kraft fibres, from 0 to 40% by weight of annual plant fibres, and from 0 to 40% by weight of rayon fibres.

40. (new) A support according to Claim 23, wherein the weight of the grid is about 20 g/m².

41. (new) A support according to Claim 25, wherein the glue is present in an amount of about 15% by weight of the grid.

42. (new) A support according to Claim 27, wherein the thermobonding fibres are present in an amount between 10 and 15% by weight of the support.

43. (new) A support according to Claim 33, wherein the stabilizing agent comprises casein, soya protein, talc or calcium carbonate.

44. (new) A support according to Claim 34, wherein the preservative agent comprises glycerin or indigo.

45. (new) A support according to Claim 35, wherein the coating is present in an amount of between 90 and 100 g/m².

GIRARD et al
Serial No. 10/524,138
January 5, 2007

46. (new) A support according to claim 21, wherein the grid is associated with at least a part of at least one support face of the support.

47. (new) A support according to claim 46, wherein the grid is associated with the whole of the at least one support face of the support.

48. (new) A support according to claim 21, wherein the grid is incorporated into at least a part of the support.

49. (new) A support according to claim 48, wherein the grid is incorporated into the whole of the support.

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